Ray Rinaldi

Carbondale Area Journal

Happy New Year!

The Scrantonian/Tribune Basketball Tournament, held this past Tuesday and Thursday was again a huge success. This is the 11th consecutive year for the holiday tournament which began as The Miner Invitational Tournament (MIT), and it just keeps rolling along.

Congratulations to the Valley View Cougars who copped this year's championship trophy. A trend seems to be in the making with Valley View winning this year at Valley View, Midvalley winning last year at Midvalley and Carbondale winning the previous year at Carbondale.

Next year's tournament is at Lakeland so it seems the Chiefs better dust off a spot in the trophy case.

Congratulations, also, to the Carbondale Area cheerleaders, winners of this year's cheerleading award, and to the five All-Stars of the tournament, Mark Picca and Sean McAndrew of Valley View, Mike Dean of Lakeland, Brian Petrosky of Carbondale Area and Ed Zielinski of Midvalley. The All-Star awards are sponsored and presented by George Hornbeck III, a charter member of the tournament committee who has sponsored the All-Star awards the past 10 years.

While a great deal of work goes into preparing for the annual tournament, the extremely cooperative effort among the four schools, athletic directors and coaches, and the original members of the committee, John Uram, Ralph Grecco, Jim Perry, Jerry Valonis, Lou Vitiello (tournament director), and yours truly makes it a pleasure.

Thanks, also, to Barb Frick for filling in at the ticket table both nights of the tournament.

I was hoping to make this an "up beat" column to start off the new year, but I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't tell you about the Carbondale City budget.

We don't have one. If you remember, Council rejected the Mayor Fred Mancuso's budget on Dec. 23, passing its own version and sending it back to the mayor for either his signature or veto. I contacted Acting City Administrator Joe Masco Thursday and asked him what the mayor's intentions were and was told, "we're going to veto it."

When? Masco said the mayor has 10 working days from receipt of Council's budget in which to respond. Allowing for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, that would put the date around Jan. 7.

Around Town

According to Council President Mike Tolerico, "if we hadn't received the Mayor's original budget 12 days late, we wouldn't be encountering this problem. It just goes to show their (the Administration's) lack of concern for the people of Carbondale."

Tolerico said that since the mayor knew he was going to veto the budget, why didn't he do it immediately so that Council could hold a special meeting to override the veto?

"We have to advertise 24-hours in advance for a special meeting," said Tolerico, "which means the city will not have a budget until around Jan. 10. And without a budget, legally, the City cannot spend a nickle."

That being the case, how are city employees to be paid this coming Thursday? Undoubtedly they will be paid, with or without a budget, but as Tolerico said, there seems to be little concern within the Administration over the lack of a budget.

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Tomorrow being the first Monday of the new year, Council is supposed to hold a reorganization meeting, but right now there doesn't seem to be anyone too interested in the job of president.

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The Carbondale Historical Society is sponsoring an open forum Thursday on the scheduled relocation of the post office from its present location to Dundaff Street.

The meeting is set for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sunday School Room of the Berean Baptist Church. Carbondale Postmaster Gerald Barrett will be the guest speaker.

Have an opinion on the subject of the post office? Here's your chance to air it. Despite the fact that particular block of Dundaff Street is undergoing a facelift, (Dr. Craparo's new clinic, a possible new business for one of the old Hendrick buildings, the demolition of the viaduct), I'm still against the post office moving.

For one thing, the present location is too convenient to be moved elsewhere, and for another I can't believe that the present structure cannot be satisfactorilly remodeled to suit the needs of the post office, at half the price of a new building.

And Finally

Pennsylvania ranks fourth nationally in unemployment. Let's hope that '83 will see the Commonwealth much farther down on that particular list.